NEWS FROM

NAACP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

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NAACP UNITS SEEK TO RESTORE PEACE IN GHETTO AREAS

NEW YORK. — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People mobilized many of its units for duty in strife-torn communities throughout the nation last week, in an effort to calm racial tensions and to bring peace to ghetto areas in which violence has erupted.

In Tampa, Fla., where three nights of rioting erupted after a white policeman shot and killed a Negro burglary suspect, NAACP State Field Director Marvin Davies and other civil rights leaders toured the Central Avenue riot area and urged teenagers to stay off the streets.

Mr. Davies and other Negro leaders later met with Mayor Nick Nuccio to discuss racial grievances. After the meeting, Mayor Nuccio agreed to withdraw 500 National Guardsmen and more than 150 policemen from the Central Avenue area, in the heart of the ghetto.

The NAACP and the Commission on Community Relations also recruited some 100 Negro youths to patrol the streets in an attempt to prevent further outbreaks of violence.

Meanwhile, NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins met with other civil rights leaders in upstate New York on June 13, to develop plans to combine organizational efforts in Cleveland, Ohio, this summer to ease racial tensions and "wipe out inequality and injustice."

Details of the joint effort have not yet been formulated, according to Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, head of the Metropolitan Applied Research Center, which sponsored the meeting.

In Cincinnati, Dr. Bruce H. Green, president of the local NAACP branch,said: "While we certainly cannot condone violence...we must condemn the conditions of poverty, lack of employment, dilapidated housing and sub-human conditions in which ghetto residents are required to live."

Dr. Green was involved in round-the-clock meetings with community leaders and city officials in efforts to halt the violence which broke out on June 13. He said that city officials who have long ignored ghetto conditions and extremists who stirred up emotions created the atmosphere for the riots.

Kenneth Guscott, president of the Boston, Mass., NAACP Branch, called on U.S.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark to launch an investigation of police brutality charges brought by Negroes during weekend riots which started June 3 in the slum section of Roxbury, a Boston neighborhood.

"We, as always, will respect and defend the rights of any persons unjustly or unlawfully treated," Mr. Guscott told a delegation of Negroes who complained of police mistreatment.

In a meeting of community leaders, Mr. Guscott also added that "those who commit violence in the name of civil rights only do a greater damage to that cause." In the aftermath of the Boston riots, Mr. Guscott announced plans to present a proposal to city officials that would "insure racial peace" by "eliminating job discrimination, provide equal educational opportunities and proper administration of justice."

The Rev. Kenneth L. Buford, NAACP Alabama field director, called on the Justice Department to "investigate the role of law enforcement officers" during a racial disturbance at Prattville, Ala., on June 12.

Ten Negroes were arrested after they allegedly exchanged gunfire with police. Dan Houser, Jr., a Negro civil rights worker, was reportedly beaten by police following the exchange of gunfire.

Mr. Buford told Justice Department officials that his office had received reports that Assistant Police Chief Kenneth Hill, accused in the jailhouse killing of a Negro earlier this year, "intimidated" the Negroes prior to the shooting.

MARSHALL NOMINATION FOR SUPREME COURT HAILED BY WILKINS

June 17, 1967

NEW YORK. — Senate confirmation of Thurgood Marshall's appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court would give the nation "an experienced and able jurist who loves the law," according to Roy Wilkins, leader of the civil rights organization with which the distinguished lawyer was affiliated for more than two decades.

"We are happy, indeed, over this history-making appointment and we congratulate Thurgood Marshall upon his nomination to be the first Negro member of the United States Supreme Court," Mr. Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told newsmen after President Johnson announced the nomination on Tuesday, June 13.

Mr. Marshall, who joined the Baltimore NAACP Branch as legal counsel in 1934, was appointed special counsel of the NAACP in 1938. In that position and later as director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he was the nation's foremost civil rights lawyer until President Kennedy appointed him a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judge in 1961.

He was in charge of the NAACP's legal campaign to outlaw segregation and discrimination in education, culminating in the landmark decision of May 7, 1954, in which the Supreme Court held that "separate but equal" has no place in education.

"His long career, using the guidelines of the law, has shown clearly his

belief that our legal codes should serve the cause of constitutional freedom for all Americans," Mr. Wilkins added in his praise of Solicitor General Marshall. "The nation will be getting not a mere Negro showpiece, but an experienced and able jurist who loves the law."

Mr. Wilkins also praised the "confidence and courage" shown by the President in nominating Mr. Marshall, who lost only three of 32 cases in appearances before the Supreme Court as an NAACP lawyer.

Mr. Marshall won numerous and significant victories during his brilliant career as a civil rights lawyer. Among the most significant were several cases involving exclusion of Negroes from juries, convictions by forced confessions and other denials of due process and the right of Negro passengers to travel in interstate transportation free from the restrictions of state or local discriminatory statutes. His court decisions also struck down the racial restrictive covenant which established the principle that covenants restricting the use, rent or sale of property to Negroes were not judicially enforceable. Mr. Marshall also won a case which established the right of Negroes to vote in the Democratic primaries in the South.

U.S. SUPREME COURT VOIDS ANTI-INTERMARRIAGE LAWS

June 17, 1967

NEW YORK. — Commenting on the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling, June 12, invalidating Virginia's anti-misegenation laws, NAACP General Counsel Robert L. Carter and Andrew D. Weinberger, New York lawyer and a member of the Association's Board of Directors, said in a joint statement: "We are pleased that the Supreme Court has handed down this long overdue decision. In a free, democratic society, people should be free to marry whomever they choose without any restrictions based on race or color."

On behalf of the Association, they had filed a brief amicus curiae, February 27, in the case of *Loving v. the Commonwealth of Virginia*. In it they stated, "Negroes cannot be considered to have obtained equal rights or to have gained full freedom as full-fledged citizens of the United States until they are free to make the individual decision as to whom they will marry without legislative interference or proscriptions based solely on the accident of color."

Mr. Weinberger has written extensively on the issue of interracial marriages. His most recent article, "Interracial Marriage in the U.S.A.," was published in the March, 1967, issue of the NAACP organ, *The Crisis*.

According to Mr. Weinberger, there are 50,000 known Negro-white marriages in the United States. He estimates that there is a much larger number of such marriages between white persons and persons of some African ancestry who have passed over into the white community.

Although the opinion by Chief Justice Earl Warren was directed specifically at the anti-miscegenation laws of Virginia, the wording was sufficiently broad and disapproving to leave no doubt that such laws in 15 other states are also now void.